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REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS

This document reports the work carried out under completed projects PD 13/92 (I) and PD 137/91 Rev.2 (I).

1. PD 13/92 (I) First Timber Industrialists Meeting in Central America
Source of Funding: Government of U.S.A.
ITTO Budget: US\$ 21,000
Implementing Agency: National Institute for Renewable Natural Resources (INRENARE)
Starting Date: March 1993
Duration: Planned - 6 months
Actual - 9 months

This project promoted consultations among private sector timber industrialists in Central America by convening a regional meeting, as suggested at the TFAP-CA roundtable held in Honduras in September 1991. The objective of the meeting was to establish a Central American Timber Industrialists Network to facilitate the exchange of experiences between the different countries in the fields of management, industrial technology, harvesting and other aspects related to production forests in order to harmonize positions and consolidate proposals for regional cooperation. Five participants from each country in the region were invited, representing the primary industry, the secondary industry, the cellulose industry, the forest utilization sector, and the government sector. The Panamanian National Institute for Renewable Natural Resources (INRENARE) with the coordination of the Tropical Forestry Action Program of Panama hosted the series of workshops over a three day period that were designed to identify objectives and agree on program principles to promote regional forest development. The workshops were attended by a total of fifty-five representatives from both primary and secondary timber processing industries, logging and reforestation industries, and government forestry sectors.

The main output of the workshops was the "Panama Declaration", which canvasses a wide range of initiatives that should be taken to enhance sustainable forest development in the Central American region. A proposed Central American Chamber of Forestry will ensure that these initiatives are pursued. The most important points agreed in the declaration are:

- To create a Central America Chamber of Forestry that includes the governments of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, and the private business sector, having the objectives, among others, of sharing technologies, knowledge and marketing strategies;

- To recommend the creation and implementation of a strategic development plan that incorporates significant improvements in the efficiency and competitiveness of the region's wood industry with the participation of the private sector, financial organizations and cooperatives and with the respective governments as facilitators;
- To study the options for developing a system of Central American certification of forest products coming from sustainably managed forests, certified by technicians of the region and promoting international recognition;
- To standardize systems of species nomenclature, measurements, standards and grades for the commercialization of forest products from Central America which constitute the base for the promotion of free intra-regional trade;
- To create a forest product market intelligence system at a Central American level, which would be at the disposal of the forestry business sector and the Central American public in general;
- To create a system of education and dissemination about the forest industry in order to improve its image;
- To promote the export of wood products with the highest value possible and to promote the integration of the forest-industry-market system;
- To promote incentives for the sustainable management of natural forests;
- To promote long-term forest concessions in the national forests (giving priority to the wood industrialists of the region), involving local communities in their management and development;
- To solicit from the Central American governments a commitment that, within their political land reforms, they will not permit changes in the land use of forest lands;
- To strengthen the Central American forest services so that they are able to efficiently control and support the forestry sector.

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| 2. | PD 137/91 Rev.2 (I) | <u>Strategy for a Sustainable Wood Industry Sector in Ecuador</u> |
| | Source of Funding: | Government of Japan Government of U.S.A. |
| | ITTO Budget: | US\$ 468,523 |
| | Implementing Agency: | Subsecretariat for Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Government of Ecuador |
| | Starting Date: | March 1992 |
| | Duration: | Planned - 11 months Actual - 19 months |

This project involved the preparation of a basic plan for the sustainable development of Ecuadorian wood processing industries, based on a reliable assessment of the forest resources in the country and the long-term demand and supply outlook for forest products.